



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Black Hills  
National  
Forest

January 2003

# **BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**DECISION**

**NOTICE**

**AND**

**FINDING OF NO**

**SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**



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**Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact  
for the  
Black Hills National Forest  
Noxious Weed Management Plan  
Rocky Mountain Region  
January 2003**

**Lead Agency:** USDA Forest Service

**Responsible Official:** John Twiss, Forest Supervisor  
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**DECISION NOTICE**  
**and**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for the**  
**BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST**  
**NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**  
**BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Development of this decision is based on direction contained in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Presidential Executive Order 13112 for the Management of Invasive Species, the 1997 Revised Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and subsequent 2001 Phase I Amendment, and other pertinent federal laws, state statutes, and guidelines directing the management of noxious weeds within the States of Wyoming and South Dakota.

The Forest Plan, the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Noxious Weed Management Strategy (1999), and the USDA Forest Service Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices (2001) prescribe management strategies and direction to contribute toward the goals and objectives for managing noxious weeds within the Black Hills National Forest (Forest). This project was initiated by the Forest Supervisor to implement agency direction for management of noxious weeds on National Forest System (hereinafter referred to as NFS) land and cooperative jurisdictions within the Forest where warranted. The project area for the Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan includes all NFS land and cooperative jurisdictions within the Forest boundary (see EA Figure I-1, Project Location Map). The actual areas to be treated will be those already known to have noxious weeds and those areas where future treatment is anticipated as a result of ground disturbing activities that result in noxious weed infestations.

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The Forest lies in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming on the Missouri Plateau of the Great Plains. Its boundaries include most of the Black Hills, a mountainous area approximately 125 miles long north to south and 60 miles wide east to west, and the Bearlodge Mountains in northeastern Wyoming. Portions of the Forest lie within Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington Counties in South Dakota and Crook and Weston Counties of Wyoming. Nearby cities include Rapid City, Lead, Deadwood, Spearfish, Sturgis, Hill City, Custer, Hot Springs and Edgemont in South Dakota, and Newcastle and Sundance in Wyoming.

## **DECISION**

Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment and the associated planning record, it is my decision to implement Alternative 2 – Proposed Action. This decision notice documents components and rationale for this decision.

## **ELEMENTS OF THE DECISION**

My decision consists of a number of separate actions designed to meet the purpose and need for the project to reduce and contain existing infestations, and prevent and control future infestations caused by implementation of scheduled Forest management activities over the coming decade. These elements are designed to improve current Forest weed management efforts and implement national agency direction.

### **Prevention and Education**

- The Forest will arrange periodic training and education seminars for Forest personnel, federal, state, and county agencies, user groups, and the public to recognize new noxious weed invaders and understand Forest direction and implementation of the Black Hills Noxious Weed Management Plan.
- The Forest will develop/incorporate Forest Plan Best Management Practices (BMPs) for soil protection and re-vegetation (seeding) to prevent establishment and spread of noxious weeds for scheduled Forest projects.
- Noxious Weed Best Management and Prevention Practices identified in the USDA Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices (Appendix B) are specifically incorporated in the proposed action and all prevention practices will be implemented in accordance with Forest Plan direction as appropriate (USDA Guide, July 2001).
- Develop and implement project risk assessments when needed to mitigate and prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds from Forest activities scheduled over the coming decade, including road maintenance/construction, prescribed burning, timber harvest, grazing management, land exchanges, recreation trail maintenance/construction, recreation campgrounds and dispersed camping areas.
- Employ clauses for weed prevention in all Forest contracts and permits as practical. In situations where Forest projects are scheduled to occur on areas infested with high densities of noxious weeds that are considered to be at high risk

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for spread, provisions for equipment washing may be required to mitigate spread and establishment of noxious weeds to adjacent NFS land and jurisdictions.

- Post and implement weed forage signing and regulations such as Forest certified weed-free hay, mulch, straw, and forage special restriction, and do compliance checking.
- Require use of certified noxious weed-free seed for use in any Forest managed seeding project.

## **Administration and Planning**

- The Forest will incorporate integrated noxious weed management plan guidelines, mitigation and monitoring measures, and consideration of weed issues into Forest planning initiatives and project design. These considerations should focus on incorporating weed species management objectives, prioritizing mitigation by species of concern, and identifying special weed management areas and recommended treatment regimes.
- The Forest plans to develop coordinated Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with all agencies and county weed boards to facilitate cooperation among affected land users and jurisdictions within the Forest. It is anticipated that these agreements will substantially expand the scope and effectiveness of noxious weed treatment within the Forest.
- The Forest will give priority to funding from all Forest management activities to administer and implement the BHNF Weed Management Plan. The Forest will develop grant and/or agreement plans to leverage funds where possible with participating counties, states, and organizations to improve control of noxious weeds across jurisdictional boundaries in the Black Hills.

## **Integrated Control**

- The Forest will implement a combination of integrated controls to schedule treatment/re-treatment of existing infestations and mitigate and control new weed infestations based on the following priorities:
  1. Rapidly and aggressively treat infestations of new or target species. Herbicides and mechanical treatments should be applied in these situations. Re-treat as needed. An invasion of noxious weeds into sensitive plant sites will be high priority for control. Control methods that are least likely to impact or kill individual sensitive plants will be used.
  2. Treat small, scattered existing infestations on NFS lands that are at high risk of spread. Herbicides and mechanical treatments should be applied in these situations. Re-treat as needed.
  3. Treat large existing infestations and/or those having a lower risk of spread. Treatments in these situations are expected to include establishment of

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insectaries, inoculation of pathogens, and perimeter treatment with herbicides.

## **Inventory/Mapping/Monitoring**

- The Forest will maintain noxious weed inventories. Surveys will be based on evaluation of project risk assessments and priority of integrated control:
  1. Invasion routes (roads and trails)
  2. Staging areas (trailheads and campgrounds)
  3. Disturbance areas (timber sales and construction)
- Forest mapping will utilize GIS technology in accordance with national mapping standards. Prioritized treatment will be a direct result of using annual monitoring evaluations and inventories of existing noxious weed infestations.

## **Research**

- The Forest is to coordinate annually with Forest Service Research, the R-2 Regional Noxious Weed Coordinator, and State Cooperative Extension Specialists, State and County Weed Boards and agencies on weed research to improve Forest management efforts.

## **RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION**

Unlike many land management decisions that involve a balancing of conflicting resource concerns and competing public interests, the issues addressed in this project were narrow in scope, largely tied to the level, strategy, and scope of treatment.

I selected the Alternative 2 – Proposed Action because it best meets the purpose and need for increasing the scope and intensity of noxious weed management on the Forest. In effect, my decision to implement this Noxious Weed Management Plan will reduce existing infestation levels and minimize future spread and establishment of noxious weeds.

Other important considerations were increased implementation of Forest Plan direction for maintenance and restoration of native plant communities through reduction of noxious weeds (EA, pg. 4); long-term reduction, containment, and control of existing weed infestation; mitigation and control of future noxious weed infestation on NFS lands; establishment of cooperative management with county, federal, state agencies, and private interests within the Black Hills (EA, pg. 5); increased public education and awareness programs for noxious weed management (EA, pg. 9); and ensured protection of ecological and human health from proposed herbicide treatment proposed in the Weed Plan (EA, pg. 8).

My decision is specifically designed to implement identified Forest Plan and national direction and guidelines for noxious weed invasion. As future direction is developed it will be incorporated into the BHNF Noxious Weed Management Plan.

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## **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

On February 5, 1999, the Forest initiated the BHNH Noxious Weed Management Plan with the release of a proposed action for public review and comment. The Forest conducted public scoping meetings during the February and March at locations in five counties within the Forest.

The Forest released the environmental assessment (EA) for a 30-day public review and comment period on August 27, 1999. The comment period was re-opened on October 8, 1999, providing an additional 30 days for public review and comment. The proposed action was featured in newspapers and on radio stations covering in South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana. In total, individuals and affected stakeholders were provided over 60 days to comment. All comments received were included in the EA and considered in the final decision. Appendix D of the EA contains a list of comments received and the Forest Service response.

On October 12, 1999 the Chief of the Forest Service issued a decision on the 1997 appeals to the Forest Plan that included instructions for further analysis concerning issues of species viability for plants and animals. To comply with these instructions, the Forest proposed adjustments to the 1997 Forest Plan in two phases. The initial effort (Phase I) included a short-term (2 - 5 years), non-significant amendment to the Forest Plan that was approved on May 18, 2001 by the Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region (USFS). As a result of the 1999 Chief's appeal decision and Phase I amendment, the Forest delayed issuance of the BHNH Noxious Weed Management Plan to consider direction from the Phase I amendment. Data and disturbance acreage for this environmental assessment are from 1999. Though some data and project locations have changed, the information's intent has not been altered.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Based on available data and public involvement, a full range of alternatives were developed and analyzed in the EA. In total, six alternatives were analyzed (EA pg. 14-16). Of these, two of the alternatives were analyzed in detail.

### **Alternative 1 - No Action (Current Management)**

This is a required alternative that provides a baseline against which impacts of the proposed action are measured and compared. In addition, under this alternative, noxious weed management, including application of integrated control methods, inventory/mapping, and public prevention, would continue to be implemented on the Forest in association with scheduled Forest projects (treating approximately 3,600 acres per year). The scope of noxious weed management on the Forest would be less comprehensive than the Proposed Action, for this reason we did not select this alternative.

### **Alternative 2 - Proposed Action**

The proposed action was developed to fully meet the purpose and need for the project and to implement direction for noxious weed management in the Forest Plan and regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.



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The proposed action is a comprehensive plan comprised of site-specific goals and objectives and strategy elements to manage the spread and establishment of noxious weeds on approximately 82,000 acres of existing weed infestation and approximately 22,300 acres of predicted infestation from the scheduled Forest activities on 887,000 acres. New infestations occurring on NFS land not covered under scheduled Forest projects are unknown at this time. Unscheduled projects or ground disturbing areas would include wildland fires, flood occurrences or insect and disease infested areas. Alternative 2 treats an additional 2,400 acres of NFS land over Alternative 1, provides for additional accomplishments including mapping, inventory, and monitoring; development of grants and agreements with all Black Hills counties and affected stakeholders; and expanded prevention/education strategies.

## **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved herbicides will be applied on a spot treatment basis in accordance with label application procedures and Forest Plan guidelines. The Noxious Weed Management Plan will treat these guidelines as standards because of the direct relationship that could exist between herbicides and plants and wildlife. The following documents provide support for herbicide application:
  1. FEIS for the 1997 Revised BHNH Land and Resource Management Plan; Chapter III, pages III-189 through III-199, 1997.
  2. FEIS for the Custer National Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan; Chapter III Affected Environment, Pages 19-29, 1986.
  3. EA for the Big Horn National Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan; Chapters I and II, and the appendices for control operating procedures, 1998.
  4. Guidelines for the Coordinated Management of Noxious Weeds for the State of South Dakota, 1992.
  5. Biology and Management of Noxious Rangeland Weeds; Section II, pages 145-438, 1999.
  6. Biological Control of Weeds in the West: Western Society of Weed Science, 1995.
  7. Pesticide/herbicide Risk and Use Assessment; USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection, Washington D.C., August 1998.
- Herbicides will be primarily applied using hand-held equipment (hose and handguns). Ground vehicles, backpack sprayers, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), wickets and other equipment developed for spot treatments are methods also available. Use of spray booms mounted on ground vehicles may be used on a site-per-site basis where appropriate. Application will be done to minimize drift and volatilization in accordance with herbicide labels.

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- Manual treatments would include hand pulling, grubbing with hand tools or hand cutting.
  - Mechanical treatments would include mowing, plowing, disking, tilling or burning.
  - Biological treatment would include establishment of insectaries for focused release of insects, inoculation with pathogens, or livestock grazing where appropriate.
  - Integrated control methods are to be implemented against target plants. Various noxious weeds respond differently to different control methods.
  - Use of the lowest application rate recommended for effective control of a given undesirable plant species.
  - Only herbicides registered for aquatic use will be used in riparian and wetland areas.
  - Once initiated, weed treatment and sample monitoring should be implemented a minimum of five consecutive years to determine/maintain effectiveness of treatment and control measures.

## **Mitigation Measures**

The following mitigation measures would eliminate, minimize, or reduce impacts of the proposed action. The measures would provide added protection for the environment and would be implemented when needed.

1. Guidelines found in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2080 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.23, Chpt. 30, and in the Final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS) of the Forest Plan, referenced in Appendix D will be followed.
2. Forest Service policies/guidance and EPA label instructions for herbicide application will be followed in implementing all treatment methods. This includes suspending herbicide applications whenever weather conditions may cause off-site drift or runoff, and providing buffer zones along riparian areas.
3. Domestic animals used to control an undesirable plant species would not be grazed in an infested area during the period of plant seed production and then moved to another vegetative community. This is intended to limit the spread of plant species through animal fecal material.
4. Noxious weed control in the Black Elk Wilderness area will be done in accordance with the Forest Plan direction for Management Area 1.1A-4301, page III-11.
5. Once undesirable plants are controlled on a site, the area will be seeded with desirable perennial plant species, and/or short-term annuals that are non-persistent, to establish a ground cover and prevent or retard re-establishment of noxious weeds. All seeding will be implemented at the discretion of the district managers and applied where necessary to achieve desired mitigation results.

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6. Federal agencies including the Forest Service, permittees, contractors, local counties, and State of South Dakota and Wyoming Government agencies working on projects within National Forest System lands are required to use seed certified by an agricultural laboratory such as the one at South Dakota State University to test all bulk orders or bags of seed to prevent noxious weeds from being spread on NFS lands.
  7. Ground-disturbing control methods will require a pre-treatment heritage resource survey.
  8. In areas where future ground disturbing activities are scheduled to occur within noxious weed infestations, when feasible weed pre-treatment applications will be conducted prior to project implementation to reduce future spread and establishment of noxious weeds.
  9. Pre-treatment surveys and assessments to determine any resources that may be at risk from weed treatments, including human habitations, aquatic resources, and special status species, including R2 sensitive plants, will be conducted. These risk assessments will determine the application strategies prior to project implementation.
  10. Information will be provided to the public of herbicide control activities when needed; areas of high public use will be posted during treatment and until the foliage is completely dry. When possible, spray applications will be accomplished when human use is likely to be low.
  11. Noxious weed management provisions in Forest wildfire recovery plans will be developed and incorporated to minimize spread and establishment.
  12. Requirements for noxious weed management will be included in special use permits for campground concessionaires, vendors, and other permittees.
  13. Equipment entering and later leaving the Forest for emergency situations except for initial attack will be required to wash tires and undercarriages to reduce distribution of noxious weeds. Local fire departments adjacent to the Forest are excluded from mandatory washing but it is suggested.

## **Monitoring Requirements**

The following measures have been designed to ensure that projects are completed consistent with design standards and management practices.

- Representative treatment areas will be monitored prior to and after treatment to determine effectiveness of control.
- In areas of high undesirable plant densities and acreage, permanent long-term effectiveness monitoring techniques will be implemented. Photo trend studies will be applicable.
- Monitoring of herbicide use will be completed on an annual basis. Pesticide use reports will be completed at the end of the treatment season to record types and amount of herbicides applied. Daily logs will be kept within the corporate Forest

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database where control activities occur. Daily logs will include information on the type of herbicide, pounds of active ingredient applied per acre, gallons of solution applied, method of application, and location.

- Inventories will be kept on each ranger district showing locations of undesirable plants and where treatment activities have occurred. Inventories will be updated to monitor the effectiveness of control techniques and new infestations.

## **CONSISTENCY WITH THE FOREST PLAN**

The Forest Plan established management direction for prevention, control, and containment of noxious weeds on NFS land within the Forest. This direction is documented in goals and objectives (Forest Plan, page I-13), and forest-wide standards and guidelines (Forest Plan, page II-59). In addition, both national and regional direction recently established policy pertinent to noxious weed management (EA, pages 7-9).

### **Objectives**

230. Eradicate or limit spread (acres) of new introductions of non-native pests (insects, diseases, plants) to minimize ecosystem disruption.

231. Prevent new infestations and manage to reduce established infestations of noxious weeds. Treat 3,600 acres per year during the next ten years to limit noxious weed infestations.

232. Inform the public about noxious weed prevention, in coordination with local weed districts where they exist.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

4301. For all proposed projects or activities, determine the risk of noxious weed introduction or spread, and implement appropriate mitigation measures. **STANDARD**

4302. Use biological control methods whenever practical, and whenever protecting other resources is desired, such as water quality. **GUIDELINE\*\***

4303. Noxious weed program priorities, include:

- a. New invaders;
- b. New areas of infestation;
- c. Spreading or expanding infestations;
- d. Existing infestations.

#### **GUIDELINE**

4304. Treat individual plant or group of plants, instead of broadcast chemical treatments, where practical. **GUIDELINE\*\***

4305. Apply chemical agents at the lowest effective rates, and as large droplets or pellets to reduce drift. Follow label directions. **GUIDELINE\*\***

4306. Use certified noxious weed-free seed, feed and mulch. **STANDARD**

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4307. When feeding recreational livestock and other ungulates use certified noxious weed-free feed. **GUIDELINE**

4308. Use buffers around water sources, lakes, wetlands and streams to keep concentrations of chemical agents in water well below those harmful to drinking, irrigation, aquatic life and non-target vegetation. Treatment of individual plants with aquatic-labeled chemical agents may occur in buffers. **STANDARD**

I have reviewed the Forest Plan objectives, standards and guidelines and determined that Alternative 2 is consistent with the Forest Plan. Alternative 2 implements the standards and guidelines and will exceed the objectives.

## **FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS**

### **Endangered Species Act**

The Biological Assessment concluded that the federally listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species that are known to occur on the Forest will not be adversely affected by implementing this Noxious Weed Management Plan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination in a letter dated October 26, 2001 that is in the project record.

### **Clean Water Act**

The actions taken under this decision will have only slight short-term effects on water quality from herbicide application. No adverse short or long-term effects to human health from the environment are anticipated. Emergency spill plans will follow direction found in “The Environmental Assessment and Management (TEAM) Guide, Wyoming (Revised May 2001 CERL Special Report 95/47 September 1995) or South Dakota (Revised February 2001 CERL Special Report 97/63 January 1997) U.S. Forest Service Specific”, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

### **Clean Air Act**

Herbicide application treatment in my decision will comply with all relevant state and federal air quality regulations and control.

### **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

Implementation of this decision will be consistent with protection for migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

### **South Dakota and Wyoming Forest Practice Acts**

State soil and water conservation practices will be implemented. No wetlands will be adversely affected.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

Consultation was initiated with South Dakota and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to ensure that heritage resources will not be adversely affected through my decision. The heritage resource assessment by the Forest Archeologist concluded that

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no significant impacts from my decision are expected. SHPOs have concurred with this determination by not responding to the draft Environmental Assessment.

### **National Forest Management Act**

My decision considers the effects of riparian health, sensitive and native plant species viability, water quality, fish and wildlife health and associated habitat viability, forage production, recreation uses, and other resource yields. My decision is also expected to accelerate Forest goals and objectives for enhancement, protection, and conservation in facets of these resource management areas.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

I have reviewed the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations for significance (40 CFR 1509.27) and have determined that the decision is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, either individually or cumulatively. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and an environmental impact statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This finding is based on the following factors:

The analysis documented in the EA did not identify any individual or cumulatively significant adverse short- or long-term impacts. Implementation of noxious weed plan operation standards for weed treatment applications, direction to follow EPA approved label and application instructions, and mitigation measures incorporated in the weed plan will provide for protection and conservation of regionally listed plant and animal species, and limit adverse impacts to Forest streams and riparian areas. Herbicide application protocols will maintain state water and air quality standards. No measurable impacts on mammals or non-targeted vegetation will occur. Applicators and the public will not be affected by the treatment applications.

The decision will not result in any major adverse effects on public health and safety. The BHNF Noxious Weed Management Plan incorporates application instructions for herbicide use that have been nationally approved by EPA and federal and state agencies for use on public lands. Implementation of these protocols and mitigation that provides for public notification prior to herbicide application is expected to alleviate potential adverse effects to sensitive individuals.

The alternatives analyzed will not impact heritage resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically significant areas. Heritage resource assessments have been conducted for the majority of NFS lands that have been treated over the past 10 years Forest-wide, and mitigation measures that provide for future surveys and assessments prior to project implementation, where necessary, will provide for future heritage resource protection. The Forest Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officers for South Dakota and Wyoming were contacted.

Public scoping and comment has not revealed any high-level controversy relative to implementation of the Preferred Alternative. The effects of implementing the selected alternative are well understood and there is little scientific controversy regarding them.

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I am satisfied that the analysis documented in the environmental assessment discloses the effects of the alternatives and that they do not involve uncertain, unique, or unknown risk.

This proposal does not establish a precedent for future action beyond the alternative proposed.

This proposal is not related to other proposals that would cause a cumulatively significant impact. Cumulative impacts relative to implementation of the No Action Alternative have been generally analyzed and disclosed in the FEIS for the Forest Plan. Those effects are not significant.

This proposal does not affect any properties on or eligible for listing for the National Register of Historic Places. Moreover, implementation of the weed plan will not cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, heritage (including tribal resources or places), or historic places.

The biological assessment for this proposal concludes that threatened or endangered plant and animal species will not be adversely affected through implementation of the BHNF Noxious Weed Plan. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination in a letter dated October 26, 2001 that is filed in the project record.

I find that this proposal does not threaten or violate any relevant federal, state, local law, or requirement for protection of the environment.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Following issuance of the decision, the BHNF Noxious Weed Management Plan will be implemented in 2002.

## **RIGHT TO APPEAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

This decision is subject to appeal under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 215. A written appeal must be submitted within 45 days of the day after notice of this decision is published in the Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, South Dakota to:

USDA-Forest Service, Region 2  
Attn: Appeal Deciding Officer  
P.O. Box 25127  
Lakewood, CO 80225-25127

Appeals must meet the following requirements:

1. State that the document is an appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215;
2. List the name and address of the appellant, and, if possible, a telephone contact number;
3. Identify the decision document by title and subject, date of the decision, and name and title of the Responsible Official;
4. Identify the specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks or that portion of the decision to which the appellant objects;

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5. State how the Responsible Official's decision fails to consider comments previously provided, either before or during the comment period specified in 36 CFR 215.6 and, if applicable, how the appellant believes the decision violates law, regulation or agency policy.

A copy of the environmental analysis is available for public review at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office, 25041 N. Highway 16, Custer, South Dakota 57730-9501.

If no appeal is filed, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal filing period (36 CFR 215.10(a)). If an appeal is received, implementation may not occur for 15 days following the date of the appeal disposition (36 CFR 215.10(b)).

For further information, contact Craig Beckner, Forest Rangeland Management Specialist, Black Hills National Forest, 25041 North HWY 16, Custer, South Dakota 57730-9501, or telephone: 605/673-9273.



JOHN C. TWISS  
Forest Supervisor

1-18-03  
Date